

U.S. Embassy, Minsk, Belarus

Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Upcoming Demonstrations Across Belarus

March 23, 2017

The U.S. Embassy informs U.S. citizens that demonstrations are planned in various cities across Belarus in the coming days, including in Minsk, Brest and Grodno on March 25. Protests may also occur on March 26. In Minsk, some participants have said they will gather at the Academy of Science at 1400 and proceed to October Square. Other routes and locations for protests are possible. Local news outlets have publicized the dates, times, and places of other announced protests.

We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore reminded to avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. The Embassy also reminds U.S. citizens to remain vigilant, maintain an appropriate level of personal security in all circumstances, and monitor local news sources for updates.

For further information:

- See the <u>State Department's travel website</u> for the <u>Worldwide Caution</u>, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the <u>Belarus Country Specific Information</u>.
- Enroll in the <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u> (**STEP**) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the U.S. Embassy in Minsk, Belarus, located at 46 Starovilenskaya St at: +375 17 210-12-83 / 217-7347 / 217-7348, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The after-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is +375 29 676-0134.
- Follow us on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>.

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO U.S. CITIZENS IN BELARUS. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD. THANK YOU.